



The Methodist Church of Southern Africa
A Christ-healed Africa for the healing of nations

RELOCATED
and
REPOSITIONED
for
MISSION & MINISTRY



Message
to the
Methodist
People
Conference
2026

Strategic Direction 2026

Theme: “Relocated and Repositioned for Mission and Ministry: Anchoring in Prayer”

The 136th Annual Conference of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa listened carefully to the experiences, hopes and concerns of the Methodist people. In prayer and discernment, the Conference recognised that the MCSA is called to a renewed obedience to God, a deeper commitment to mission, and a practical response to the realities facing the Church and society

Conference paused to mourn the killings of women in Ekurhuleni and called for an urgent impartial investigations, accountability for perpetrators and stronger prevention, protection and support system.

Conference 2026 has affirmed a renewed strategic direction for the MCSA, centred on prayer, discipleship, and courageous service. Through this commitment, the church seeks to nurture societies that embody faith, hope and transformation in their communities. Through prayerful listening, discernment, and reflection, Conference identified the following priorities:

1. Spiritual Renewal and Anchoring in Prayer

Prayer must become the foundation of life and ministry of the church. Societies, organisations and leaders are called to cultivate regular practices of personal and corporate prayer, spiritual discernment and biblical reflection.

Prayer initiatives should be strengthened at every level and a culture in which decisions, programmes and relationships are consciously placed before God.

2. Implementing the Mission Congress outcomes

The resolutions of Mission Congress 2025 must move from vision to action. The Church should focus on making disciples, strengthening congregational life, equipping members for ministry and ensuring that mission is expressed through practical service in local communities.

Every structure of the Church should identify clear actions to take towards implementing the commitments of the mission Congress. Furthermore, leaders of the church at every level are encouraged to implement the outcomes.

3. Leadership, Stewardship and Governance

The MCSA is called to invest in the formation of spiritually mature, accountable and servant-hearted leaders. Clergy and laity must be equipped with the knowledge and skills required for effective ministry and service, governance, responsible stewardship and faithful administration.

Leadership should be exercised with humility, transparency and a clear commitment to the mission of Christ rather than personal interest or institutional preservation.

4. Women's Formation and the Jubilee Fund

As the Church celebrates the 50th Jubilee of women's ordination, the MCSA reaffirms the full participation, leadership and ministry of women. The Church in all its structures must address barriers that limit women's contribution and ensure that women are supported, affirmed and equipped for ministry.

The Jubilee Fund will provide a practical means of honouring this milestone and investing in the ongoing formation and empowerment of women across the Connexion.

5. Youth Liberation and Empowerment

Young people are not merely the future of the church; they are vital partners in its mission today. Guided by the vision of "Active Hope", the MCSA should create meaningful opportunities for young people to participate in worship, leadership, discipleship, innovation and community engagement.

In responding to youth unemployment, exclusion and discouragement, the church must nurture young people's gifts, support their initiatives and work with them towards lives of dignity, purpose and hope.

6. Transformational Governance, Compliance and Digital Ethics

Compliance must serve the mission of the church rather than become an administrative burden. The MCSA is called to strengthen ethical leadership, sound financial management, responsible use of resources and effective institutional accountability.

As the church engages the digital age, it must promote responsible digital citizenship, protect the dignity and privacy of people, and ensure that technology supports ministry, inclusion and the common good.

7. Public Theology and Mission Enablers

The MCSA is called to remain a prophetic presence in Southern Africa. It must speak truth to power and respond faithfully to poverty, inequality, unemployment, violence, corruption, injustice and the destruction of God's creation.

Through partnerships, advocacy, social action and responsible use of its resources, the church must become a visible instrument of healing, justice and reconciliation.

A Call to the Methodist People

The Spirit is calling the MCSA to move from maintenance to mission, from activity to fruitfulness, and from anxiety to active hope. This requires every member, society, circuit, district and connexion to discern what God is asking and to act with courage.

Anchoring in prayer, we must relocate and reposition to embody discipleship, justice, compassion and hope. May the Holy Spirit renew and unite the Methodist people, empower her to serve God's mission faithfully in this generation.

'COME AND SEE'.